

### CITY MARKS ADVANCE IN EVERY FIELD

Prophecy of 1922 Fulfilled  
in Industrial Activity  
and Progress.

### NOT "BOOM" INCREASES

Substantial, Steady Growth  
Gives Basis for Brighter  
Predictions for 1923.

Leaders in commercial, industrial, financial and civic life of Rock Island who prophesied a convincing return to pre-war progress during the year of 1922, are reviewing the last 12 months with satisfaction and pride.

Although the monetary investments do not loom as large as those of the war-time expansion and the programs have not been on as extensive a scale, men close in touch with the community find justifiable basis for rejoicing as they review the period just closed.

Building permits showed construction work costing \$1,624,621—five times as great as in the previous year. A score of new factories, business blocks and office buildings, supplemented by steady home-building, supplied this figure. Public improvements totalling \$400,000; bank deposits increased nearly \$1,000,000; county highway improvement program was given substantial start with a \$1,000,000 bond issue to supplement the state aid work; clubs and organizations experienced a year marked by advancement in their various undertakings which reflected in a general manner through the life of the whole community.

Rock Island has enjoyed a sound industrial development which is of more portent than the casual observer will grasp. Established businesses have expanded and reached into newer and broader fields; new enterprises have indicated the establishment of an industrial life upon a wider and therefore more stable basis; employment has become more settled and with it the financial institutions have felt a return of the systematic saver, who eventually becomes an influential force in the civic life. Confidence in the future has been expressed in a score of ways.

**Laurel City Plan.**  
The city planning commission submitted comprehensive recommendations for the improvement and development of the municipality with suggestions for reclamation of river front property for park and industrial purposes and the establishment of city parks adjacent to municipal boundaries. The United States engineers' office completed the LeClaire canal project, which may truly be considered a Rock Island improvement because it opens this city to selection as water port for river freight traffic.

The Burlington road is completing a \$20,000 roundhouse at Thirty-eighth street; the Modern Woodmen has finished annex to its publication building, practically doubling its floor space, and the Royal Neighbors are being urged to start work upon an office building and printing plant upon the site at Sixteenth street and Third avenue, secured years ago for this improvement.

**See Consistent Advance.**  
Most cheering phase of the situation, it is pointed out by realtors, bankers and contractors, lies in the permanency of the "boom" which has been started. It isn't a "boom" as the word was used a few years ago—but a normal growth which presages a continued investment along similar lines and gathers a conservative and stronger impetus as each year progresses. Upon this presumption, they look forward to 1923 to exceed in number and amount the building activities and industrial development of the year now closing.

### \$4,050 COLLECTED IN CITY LICENSES; LARGEST FEE \$800

The city of Rock Island received \$4,050 in license fees from various sources in 1922. The largest license fee—\$800—came from pool and billiard parlors. The total receipts from all sources in 1922 were \$579,366.60.

Amounts paid in license fees follow: Meat markets, \$215; dairies, \$405; billiard and pool halls, \$800; bill posters, \$100; brewers, \$25; express wagons, \$105; peddlers, \$330; ice cream peddlers, \$15; house movers, \$50; pawn brokers, \$75; theatres, \$335; peddlers' stands, \$50; auto cabs, \$200; ferry, \$200; shows, \$79; park, \$330; rendering, \$25; pin alleys, \$40; soft drink bars, \$332; motion picture machine operators, \$24; auctioneers, \$25.

## Home-Builders Vied in Making Record Year in City



Handsome new houses were erected in all parts of Rock Island last year and builders seemed to vie with one another in making it a period notable for charming residences. A few examples of the many, attractive homes finished during the year are shown. No. 1—Olof Anderson, 2540 Nineteenth avenue, left, John F. Mangelsdorf, 2544 Nineteenth avenue; No. 2—Dr. H. G. Trent, 2103 Eighteenth avenue. No. 3—H. W. Litten, 2300 Eighteenth avenue. No. 4—Swain Pearson, 1702 Twenty-first street. No. 5—George R. Rice, 3133 Twelfth street. No. 6—Charles Pfaff, 2301 Seventeenth street; No. 7—George Estel, 1105 Thirteenth avenue.

### Building Permits \$1,624,621 Five Times Figure of 1921; Predict Even Brighter Year

Building activities in Rock Island were enormously increased in 1922, there being nearly five times the amount of work done in comparison to the preceding year when an almost paralyzing slump occurred. The estimated cost of structures, including repairs of all kinds, in 1922, was \$1,624,621.46. In 1921 the figure was only \$336,601.

The large amount of work this year may be due in part to the postponement of work from last year which was the result of the building trades strike in the spring of 1921 when the men remained out weeks to enforce continuance of the scale of wages. Cuts were made at that time and many builders abandoned all plans of building for the year.

**New Era for City.**  
This year, it is generally agreed, is the beginning of a new building era for the city of Rock Island.

The erection of many new homes within the immediate city limits; new schools and additions to a number of school buildings; beautiful homes which have been built in the outskirts of Rock Island, and

several factories, all contribute to the brightening of hopes for the advancement of the city.

The number of new dwellings for this year increased by 45, there being 120 erected in 1922 in comparison to 75 last year. There were 226 garages erected this year—a decrease of seven from the year before. The building of garages was, in fact, the only building of importance which was lower this year than in 1921.

John A. Lindros, city building inspector, issued 341 permits, which included all kinds of work, which showed an increase from 721 from 1921. The forecast for 1923 has all prospect of being a much larger year than this, Mr. Lindros said.

The report of the year given by Mr. Lindros also shows that 69,227 square feet of sidewalks were laid in 1922 and the total estimated cost of building plant construction was \$30,724.46. Water rent for construction of the buildings amounted to \$212.12. The total amount of fees collected by the city by the

### COUNTY VALUES UP \$10,000,000 IN LAST FIVE YEARS

Property values in Rock Island county have increased nearly \$10,000,000 in the last five years and in the township of Rock Island the increase has been \$1,800,000. Figures compiled by the county clerk's office from assessors' reports showed that values jumped over half a million dollars last year.

In 1921 valuations for taxation purposes totaled \$38,057,913, not including capital stock valuations of \$686,320. Upon these estimates the total value of Rock Island county property is conservatively placed at \$77,546,000.

**Abstract of taxable valuations for 1921:**

Lands	\$ 8,630,195
Buildings	17,289,315
Personal	9,049,115
Railroads	3,141,788
Comparative figures of taxable values listed in recent years follow:	
Total taxable valuation for 1921	\$38,057,913
Total taxable valuation for 1920	37,557,003
Total taxable valuation for 1919	35,295,213
Total taxable valuation for 1922	29,572,515

### ELIMINATE BIG HINDRANCE TO RIVER PROGRAM

**Completion of LeClaire Project Mississippi's Greatest Aid; Mill on River Plant.**

The Rock Island engineer district, with headquarters in the Federal building, is in charge of Major B. C. Dunn, corps of engineers, United States Army, with Captain W. M. Hope, corps of engineers, as assistant. This district includes the Mississippi river from the mouth of the Wisconsin river to the mouth of the Missouri river, embracing the lock and dry dock at Keokuk, Iowa, the lock at Moline, and the canal and lock at LeClaire. It also includes the Illinois and Mississippi canals, with 38 locks and 104 miles of navigable waterway, and the operation of snag boats and dredge boats on the upper Mississippi between St. Paul and the mouth of the Missouri river. As superintendent of the 13th Lighthouse district, Major Dunn has charge of lights,

buoys and day-marks on the Mississippi river from the head of navigation to the Missouri river, the Missouri river from Kansas City to its mouth, the Illinois river and Lake Traverse, St. Croix river and Lake, and the Minnesota, Gasconade and Osage rivers. The Rock Island district is divided into sections, each section in local charge of an assistant engineer.

Expenditures during the calendar year 1922 amounted to approximately \$350,000, which sum was applied to construction of LeClaire canal and lock, operating pipe-line dredges, construction and repair of dams and shore protections, and the construction, care and repair of floating plant.

The LeClaire canal, which practically eliminates the Rock Island rapids by overcoming the upper rapids, was officially opened to navigation Nov. 29. Construction work on this project commenced in 1914, and the expenditures on this improvement to date have been approximately \$2,000,000. This project has been completed, with the exception of dredging to widen and deepen the upper approach to the canal and the lower approach to the lock.

Construction and repair of dams and shore protections by hired labor and use of government plant

### EIGHT MEN DIE BEFORE RULE HALTS

Argus Opens Fight When Officials Refuse to Curb Vicious Conditions.

### LOONEYSM IS MAIN ISSUE

Lord of the Vice Ring Uses Scandal Sheet as Weapon Over Authorities.

BY J. M. COLLIGAN,  
Managing Editor of The Argus.

Rock Island during the year just closing passed through a crisis that has proved the turning point of the city's future. Rock Island has been diverged from a course that was undermining its stability and progress to one that insures its security and healthy and contented development. Rock Island during the year was delivered from a government of outlawry to a government functioning in accordance with the laws that are written in the statutes. Rock Island a year ago today was known from coast to coast as one of the wildest and wettest cities in the United States. It was recorded in the underworld as a city where any lawless activity could be practiced in accordance with the laws that are written in the statutes. Rock Island a year ago today was known from coast to coast as one of the wildest and wettest cities in the United States. It was recorded in the underworld as a city where any lawless activity could be practiced in accordance with the laws that are written in the statutes.

Doubleless you have been curious to know how the campaign that has resulted in the suppression of lawlessness in Rock Island had its beginning. You may have read a paragraph that was printed on the editorial page of The Argus on June 5 last. Here is the paragraph:

Third avenue, between Twentieth and Twenty-fourth streets, reminds one of Bucktown days in Davenport. The police at least ought to insist on the applying of the soft pedal.

You'll have to agree, if you recall conditions as they existed at that time in the Third avenue district, that the paragraph was very mild and polite. It was intended merely as a kindly suggestion to the Rock Island city administration that there was developing a condition on Third avenue and in other sections of the city that would have to be checked. Innumerable complaints had come to The Argus regarding the growing extent and brazenness of the Rock Island underworld. The Argus appreciated that Rock Island had always been regarded as a liberal city; that there was a spirit of tolerance for minor vices that were understood to prevail in every community that has risen above the puritanical village classification. The Argus had known Rock Island when it had 96 licensed saloons that operated seven days a week. It had known Rock Island when it tolerated public resorts of different classifications, but it never before had experienced the spectacle where the underworld could snap its fingers at the city hall and the court house and openly defy officials sworn to uphold laws whose enforcement could, have at any time, completely wiped out every underworld establishment in the city of Rock Island.

**Duty of a Newspaper.**  
It is not the province of a newspaper to regulate the private morals of a community, but it is the duty of a newspaper to defend the public welfare against a condition that is recognized as harmful to the common good. The Rock Island underworld government had risen above the protection of the law-abiding citizenship of the community. The Argus proved the existence of this startling condition after an exhaustive investigation conducted under the direction of this newspaper, the results of which were in part revealed in a series of underworld stories printed in its columns.

Most people of the city are aware that there was being printed weekly in the city a newspaper known as the Rock Island News, the property of John Looney, for upwards of thirty years a practicing attorney in the community. Looney had experienced a precarious career in the newspaper business in Rock Island. Once he published a daily, but in time he discovered that it was an expensive enterprise when conducted in accordance with his perverted ideas of daily journalism. Looney was the beginning employed of his newspaper for the promotion of his shady activities. Eventually the daily passed out of existence, after which he continued as a weekly. Looney always boasted of his purpose and determination to defend the interests of the common people. There is no denying that there were people who believed that he was sincere in his professions, although his representations could

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